

**RESTORATION INFORMATIONMANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
ORIGINAL DATE: 17 JULY 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 APRIL 1999**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort Scammel

**SITE NUMBER:** D01ME001200

**LOCATION:**

City: Portland  
County: Cumberland  
State: Maine

**PROJECT NUMBER:** D01ME001201

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** N/A

**ASR RAC:** 5

**TAG RAC:** 5

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Fort Scammel is located on House Island in Casco Bay, Portland, Maine. The United States purchased approximately 12 acres in 1808 and the military built a semi-circular earth and brick fortress to be used as a harbor defense of Portland. Additional construction included an ammunition magazine, a barracks, and a second small battery.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** Several coastal defense batteries protected the city of Portland, Maine, prior to the twentieth century; one of these batteries was on House Island in Casco Bay. In 1808, the military built a semi-circular earth and brick fortress called Fort Scammel. Additional construction included an ammunition magazine, a barracks, and a second small battery. At the beginning of the War of 1812, the fort's defenses consisted of nine guns. In 1845, the two bastions were combined into a single enclosed structure. In 1862, fearing an attack on Portland by Confederate raiders, Congress authorized the rebuilding of Fort Scammel. These plans called for three multi-tiered bastions, one each on the north, the east, and the west corners. These bastions would consist of brick and granite, and the armament would be placed both inside the bastions and *en barbette* (roof). These plans were revised, however, in 1866. Only the East and West Bastions were to be retained, and they would only be two and one story tall, respectively. Several small magazines and a central "great magazine" were built within the fortress. The fort was manned during the Spanish-American War, but all of its armament was removed early in the twentieth century. During the First World War, a three-inch anti-aircraft battery was placed at Fort Scammel. In 1938, the government tried to sell the property, but there were no bidders. During World War II, the Navy acquired the site with the intention of using it as an ammunition storage facility for Casco Bay area vessels. The \$200,000 project to rehabilitate the fort never commenced. The Navy Department declared Fort Scammel surplus in 1947, and the property was sold to a private individual in 1948. It has remained in private ownership ever since.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Entire Site:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 12
	Former Use:	Military Fort
	Present Use:	Privately Owned Island
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordinance Presence:	None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Fort Scammel was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in July 1998.

7. **STRATEGY:** Entire Site: No DoD Action Indicated (NDAI)

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 27 April 1999 and determined NDAI for this site. **No OE has been reported on this site in over 50 years.** Attached revised RAC form reflects a score of 5.

The St. Louis District site inspection team was denied access to the site by the landowner, and therefore, were unable to conduct a site inspection. The present property owners **DO NOT** want anymore government involvement with their property on House Island. Also, in 1994, the property owner, Mr. Harold Cushing, requested that no further Federal inspections or activities take place on this property.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NDAI

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** N/A NDAI

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